

# HMU employee Underwood dies

**HARLAN** -- A 30-year-old Harlan man died Thursday after passing out while working on a water main leak in west Harlan.

Harlan Municipal Utilities employee Josh Underwood collapsed at approximately 10:45 p.m. Thursday, July 12, HMU officials said. Emergency medical personnel were called immediately and responded. Underwood was transported to Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan where he later died.

According to Dr. Scott A. Markham, attending physician and Shelby County Medical Examiner, "The cause of death is pending. An autopsy has been ordered".

Harlan Municipal Utilities Chief Executive Officer Tom Gaffigan released this statement Friday afternoon:

"We at HMU are saddened by the death of Josh Underwood; a devoted father and husband, a kind gentleman, a good friend, and an exceptional employee. His presence will be missed by many. We ask you to join us in keeping Josh, his children, his wife Liz, his parents, family and friends in your thoughts and prayers."

Underwood had worked at HMU since September of 2001.

Services will be held Tuesday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Manilla with burial in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery at Manilla. Visitation was Monday, July 16 after 3 p.m., with a rosary service at 4 p.m. and prayer service at 7 p.m.

Underwood is survived by his wife, Liz, and two children, Hunter and Aschtian, all of Harlan; parents Rick and Mary Underwood of Denison; grandparents Joan and Don Bauer of Manilla; grandmother Miriam Underwood of Sioux City; mother and father-in-law Leo and Jan Schwery of Earling; brothers-in-law Jordan and Joe Schwery of Earling; sister-in-law Katie Schwery of Earling; nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

The HMU office will be closed Tuesday in remembrance of Underwood, and so employees may attend funeral services. Emergency calls will be taken at 755-5182.